



## Recycle for Your Future

### Do Your Part

This factsheet informs you on how to do your part to make the Charlotte - Mecklenburg Schools Recycling Program a success.

- 1 **Learn what can be recycled.** White and colored paper, computer/copy paper, flattened corrugated cardboard, paperboard, glossy papers such as magazines, newspapers, and telephone books can be recycled. Empty cans and plastic drink bottles can also be recycled. Paper products used in restrooms and the cafeteria and paper that has been in contact with food or gum are not recyclable.
- 2 **Know where recycling containers are located.** Recycling containers are located throughout your school. Medium size containers are used in your classrooms and media centers. Large containers are located in art classes and next to copy machines. If your school recycles cans and plastic drink bottles, you will find containers specifically designated for these items near vending machines and at the cafeteria. The can and bottle recycling containers should always be lined with plastic bags. Make sure the cans and bottles are empty before you place them in the recycling container.
- 3 **Flatten your cardboard.** Generally, it works best if you designate specific locations to collect flattened cardboard boxes for the purpose of recycling. This way, the cardboard does not fill up the recycling containers in your classroom. The cafeteria, copy room, administrative offices, media center, and school store are the main sources of cardboard.
- 4 **Stop Contamination!** Contamination can mean an entire dumpster or truck of recyclables will be sent to the landfill instead of the recycling facility. Students are often the first line of defense against contamination. If contamination is observed in an inside collection container, all the contents of that container must go in the trash. Pizza boxes and half-full drink cans and bottles are major sources of contamination in schools.



# It's Up to You...

## Recycle...it's the law!

The Mecklenburg County Recycling Ordinance requires schools that generate 16 cubic yards or more of trash per week (or two standard dumpsters) to keep cardboard and paper out of their dumpsters. A school can be fined if it is not recycling.

**Good News...** Your school is recycling and you can help by doing your part! Paper, cardboard, cans, and plastic drink bottles are collected in your school and placed in an outside recycling container where they are picked up on a weekly or sometimes daily basis. Recyclables picked up from your school are sent to the recycling facility to be recycled into new paper, cardboard, insulation materials, cans, bottles, and many other items.

## Make the Recycling Program a Success

- Know who your school Recycling Coordinator is and how to alert him or her to any problems with the recycling program.
- Relocate recycling containers (with the Recycling Coordinator's "OK") that are not handy for students to use to dispose of their recyclable materials. Add containers to areas that do not have one and exchange containers that overflow between pickups with a larger container.
- Challenge a class to a recycling competition. Competition ideas: most paper collected (by weight) per class for a week, most re-use ideas for paper. Paint your recycle dumpster to show your support for school programs.
- Do not contaminate recyclable materials. Empty drink cans and bottles before you place them in recycle containers.
- If contamination is frequently found in the recycling containers or large amounts of recyclable paper is discarded in the trash, tell your Recycling Coordinator.

**For additional materials: 704-336-3777**  
**For missed or extra pickup: 704-336-5371**

**Mecklenburg County Waste Reduction**  
**700 N. Tryon St. - Charlotte, NC 28202**  
**<http://www.wipeoutwaste.com>**

